

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 5-12 with the following paragraph:

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/020,724, filed on June 21, 1996, for "Method and Apparatus for Adhering Linerless Repositionable Sheets onto Articles," by Alden R. Miles et al.; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/729,780, filed on October 8, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,383,591, for "Method and Apparatus for Adhering Linerless Repositionable Sheets onto Articles," by Alden R. Miles et al. and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/443,430, filed on November 19, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,352,751, for "Method and Apparatus for Adhering Linerless Repositionable Sheets onto Articles," by Alden R. Miles et al.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 11 with the following paragraph:

It is believed that the only publicly known method for directly applying linerless repositionable preprinted sheets having a band of adhesive thereon directly onto articles such as magazines or advertising signatures is by manual means. A previous method and apparatus for an automated application of such sheets is disclosed in co-pending U.S. patent application 08/963,147, now U.S. Patent No. 6,379,764, which is a divisional of U.S. patent application 08/095,722, now abandoned, commonly owned by the assignee of the instant application, ~~Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing~~ 3M Innovative Properties Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, and incorporated herein by reference. In that disclosure, a supply roll of paper for forming such sheets is incrementally dispensed, cut by a reciprocating knife, and then transported to a flat vacuum plate, which first held the cut sheet by forming a vacuum and then blew the RPSA side of the cut sheet onto an advertising signature. In this arrangement, a series of indicia (i.e., "eyemarks") printed on the RPSA side of the sheet material were detected to control the movement of the sheet material through the apparatus and

its alignment relative to its respective advertising signature. The locational placement of the cut sheet relative to the advertising signature is referred to as its registration. At the highest speeds possible with this equipment (e.g., 3,000 articles processed per hour), this prior art apparatus did not provide as precise a placement or registration of the cut sheet on sequential advertising signatures as desired.